

## A B S T R A C T

## "A guide wire for use with a catheter"

A guide wire (1) for use with a catheter comprises a core wire (3) terminating in a  
5 distal portion (18) of flat ribbon-like construction having respective opposite major  
surfaces (29,30). A spring (24) is brazed to a distal end (27) of the distal portion (18)  
and to the core wire (3) at a tapering portion (14). A reinforcing member (38)  
extends axially along the distal portion (18) from a proximal end (26) of the distal  
portion (18) to a location (40) for reinforcing the distal portion (18) for in turn  
10 increasing its torsional rigidity in order to minimise axial twisting of the distal portion  
(18). A guide portion (42) of the distal portion (18) between the location (40) and the  
distal end (27) is provided to be bent at a desired set curved configuration for  
offsetting a distal tip (9) of the guide wire (1) from a central axis (8) thereof, so that  
by rotating the guide wire (1) at its proximal end (5) the distal portion (18) is also  
15 rotated for aligning the distal tip (9) with a branched vessel into which it is desired to  
direct and urge the guide wire (1).

Figs. 2 and 3 to accompany the abstract.